

Measure Up

Spring 2012

Assessment news for middle school teachers



Did you know?

- A sample of about 2,000 schools and 75,000 students participated in NAEP 2012.
- NAEP 2012 included long-term trend assessments in mathematics and reading at ages 9, 13, and 17, and a computer-based writing pilot at grade 4.
- NAEP 2013 will include assessments in mathematics and reading.

Thank You!

Thank you to all schools participating in the NAEP 2012 assessment! The NAEP 2012 assessments began in October 2011 with the long-term trend assessment, a special NAEP assessment in reading and mathematics that is administered every 4 years to 9-, 13-, and 17-year-old students throughout the nation.

The existence of the two national assessment programs, long-term trend NAEP and main NAEP, makes it possible to

- measure student progress over time, and also
- develop new assessment instruments that reflect current educational content and assessment methodology as educational priorities change.

The NAEP long-term trend assessments were first administered in reading in 1971, and in mathematics in 1973.

The NAEP long-term trend assessment was developed to give information on the changes in the basic achievement of our nation's youth. It has been used to monitor trend lines first established in 1969. Results have been reported for reading since 1971 and for mathematics since 1973.

The last long-term trend assessment for which results are available was

administered during the 2007-2008 school year. The resulting trend data showed higher average scores in mathematics for 9- and 13-year-olds in 2008 than in any previous assessment year.

The 2011–2012 long-term trend assessment of 13-year-olds began on October 10 and ended on December 16, 2011. Students who are 9 years old were assessed from January 9 to March 16, 2012, and 17-year-olds are being assessed from March 19 to May 25, 2012. The results of these assessments will be available in 2013.





For sample questions, visit the NAEP Questions Tool at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmlsx>.

NAEP is the largest nationally representative and continuing assessment of what students across the United States know and can do in various subject areas. Assessments are conducted in mathematics, reading, science, writing, the arts, civics, economics, geography, and U.S. history.

NAEP 2011 Results

Mathematics

A nationally representative sample of 175,200 eighth-graders participated in the 2011 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in mathematics. Students responded to questions designed to measure what they know and can do across five mathematics content areas: number properties and operations; measurement; geometry; data analysis, statistics, and probability; and algebra.

Eighth graders scored higher in 2011 than in previous assessment years

At grade 8, the average mathematics score in 2011 was 1 point higher than in 2009, and 21 points higher than in 1990.

Grade 8 average math scale scores



Reading

A nationally representative sample of 168,200 eighth-graders participated in the 2011 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in reading. Students responded to questions designed to measure their reading comprehension across two types of texts: literary and informational.

Students' reading comprehension improves at grade 8

At grade 8, the average reading score in 2011 was 1 point higher than in 2009, and 5 points higher than in 1992.

Grade 8 average reading scale scores



NAEP 2011 Results (continued)

Students' performance is reported as average scores on a 0–500 scale for each subject and as percentages of students at or above three achievement levels.

Basic denotes partial mastery of prerequisite knowledge and skills that are fundamental for proficient work at each grade.

Proficient represents solid academic performance. Students reaching this level have demonstrated competency over challenging subject matter.

Advanced represents superior performance.



Since NAEP assessments are administered uniformly using the same sets of test booklets across the nation, main NAEP results serve as a common metric for all states and selected urban districts. The assessment stays essentially the same from year to year, with only carefully documented changes. This permits NAEP to provide a clear picture of student academic progress over time.

Change in students' performance over time

	From 2009				From 1990	From 1992	
	Math		Reading		Math	Reading	
	Grade 4	Grade 8	Grade 4	Grade 8	Both Grades	Grade 4	Grade 8
Average score	▲	▲	◆	▲	▲	▲	▲
Percentages of students							
at or above <i>Basic</i>	◆	◆	◆	◆	▲	▲	▲
at or above <i>Proficient</i>	▲	▲	◆	▲	▲	▲	▲
at <i>Advanced</i>	▲	◆	◆	▲	▲	▲	◆

▲ Indicates the score or percentage was higher in 2011.

◆ Indicates no significant change in the score or percentage in 2011.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2009 and 2011 Mathematics and Reading Assessments.

Connect With NAEP!

Learn more about

- the latest news regarding upcoming assessments and releases;
- tips for using online NAEP tools;
- NAEP questions to test your knowledge compared to that of the nation's students; and
- NAEP publications.

For more information about NAEP, go to <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/>



What Is The Nation's Report Card?

The Nation's Report Card informs the public about the academic achievement of elementary and secondary students in the United States. Report cards communicate the findings of NAEP, the largest continuing and nationally representative measure of achievement in various subjects over time.

Since 1969, NAEP assessments have been conducted periodically in reading, mathematics, science, writing, U.S. history, civics, geography, and other subjects. By collecting and reporting information on student performance at the national, state, and local levels, NAEP is an integral part of our nation's evaluation of the condition and progress of education. Only information related to academic achievement and relevant variables is collected. The privacy of individual students and their families is protected, and the identities of participating schools are not released.

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Learn about the NAEP long-term trend assessment	The Nation's Report Card at http://nationsreportcard.gov/ltr_2008/ltr0016.asp
View NAEP data for a particular state or contact your NAEP State Coordinator	The National Center for Education Statistics at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/states
Access specific results for a grade level, subject, jurisdiction, and/or demographic groups	The NAEP Data Explorer at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata
Find information regarding the types of questions used on NAEP assessments or view subject-specific questions	The NAEP Questions Tool at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmlsx
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